

Acheson on JFK: 'Out of His Depth'

Former Secretary of State Dean Acheson says in an interview published in Life magazine that John F. Kennedy was "out of his depth" in the Presidency.

The Life article is part of TV interview Acheson gave the British Broadcasting Corp. It has not been televised yet.

"He did not have incisiveness, and he was out of his depth where he was," Acheson said of the late President. "I hate to say this, because I know it's going to be misunderstood, but his reputation is greater because of the tragedy of his death than it would have been if he had lived out two terms."

Acheson said Kennedy "did

not seem to me to be in any sense a great man. I did not think he knew a great deal about any of the matters which it's desirable a chief of state or a President of the United States should know about. He was not decisive."

When the interviewer, Kenneth Harris, said there was a "legend that he was a very decisive man indeed" during the Cuban missile crisis, Acheson replied, "Well, it is a legend, it is not the fact."

The former Secretary of State, who served under Harry S. Truman, was sent to France by Kennedy to keep French President de Gaulle informed about the crisis.

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